

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6723

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TAGS: PINR, MX, US

SUBJECT: REACTION OF GOM OFFICIALS TO ECHEVERRIA UNAM VISIT

1. MOST FRONT PAGE NEWSPAPERS SPACE MARCH 16 DEVOTED TO REACTION OF GOM OFFICIALS (AND OTHER PUBLIC FIGURES) TO ATTACH ON PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA WHEN HE VISITED UNAM CAMPUS FRIDAY, MARCH 14.
2. SPEAKING TO GROUP OF CAMPESINOS MARCH 15, PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA SAID STUDENTS RESPONSIBLE "WERE BEING IRRESPONSIBLE VICTIMS OF MANEUVERS AND MANIPULATIONS WHICH THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND". ECHEVERRIA AGAIN COMPARED THOSE STUDENTS TO THE HITLER AND MUSSOLINI YOUTH.
3. FOLLOWING COMMENTS WERE CARRIED ONLY IN EXCELSIOR, UNDER HEADLINE

"CIA, REACTION AND IMPERIALISM, PROMOTERS OF THE ATTACK: RABASA, MUNOZ LEDO, AND OJEDA". BASIS FOR HEADLINE WAS FOLLOWING COMMENTS OF EACH INDIVIDUAL, APPARENTLY GIVEN IN RESPONSE TO EXCELSIOR REPORTER'S QUESTIONS:
SEC. OF FOREIGN RELATIONS
-) RABASA-"ONE HAS TO START WITH THE ASSUMPTION, ALWAYS, THAT THE CIA OPERATES IN ALL LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, SAVE PROFF TO THE CONTRARY." RABASA SAID IF ANY DIPLOMAT WAS INVOLVED IN

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FRIDAY'S SCUFFLE, "WE'LL EXPEL HIM IMMEDIATELY

AND PRESENT VIGOROUS PROTESTS".

SEC. OF LABOR

B) MUNOZ-LEDO- "ECHEVERRIA WAS THE OBJECT OF AN AGRESSION FROM GROUPS WHOSE OWN ACTS LABEL THEM AS FASCISTS".

ATTORNEY GENERAL

C) OJEDA- "WHO OPPOSES A GOVERNMENT THAT FIGHTS AGAINST IMPERIALISM? THOSE DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THAT GOVERNMENT. DIALECTICALLY, THERE'S NO OTHER ANSER. AND IT IS SAID THAT FROM THE UNITED STATES AS WELL AS FROM OTHER CAPITALISTIC, DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, THERE COMES AN IMPERIALISTIC CURRENT."

3. EXCELSIOR ALSO QUOTED ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE FEDERAL DISTRICT CASTELLANOS COUTINO AS SAYING: "UNFORTUNATELY, WHAT AT FIRST WAS MERE CONJECTURES ABOUT CIA INVOLVEMENT IN MEXICO APPEARS TO BE TAKING ON A CERTAIN VERACITY."

4. HOWEVER, MOST PAPERS (EL NAVIONAL, EL HERALDO, EL DIA) HEADLINE EXCERPTS FROM SPEECH GIVEN BY SECRETARY OF GOBERNACION MOYA PALENCIA ON OCCASION OF 150TH ANNIVERSARY (MARCH 15) OF MEXICAN SUPREME COURT. MOYA PRAISED ECHEVERRIA'S VALOR, TERMING HIS APPEARANCE AT UNAM "ONE OF THE GREAT MOMENTS OF MEXICAN LEADERSHIP" MOYA DECLARED THE GOM WOULD NOT FALL INTO THE TRAP OF REPRESSION, SINCE THAT WAS NOT A REVOLUTIONARY SOLUTION, AND THAT PROVOCATORS FOR THAT REASON "WERE WASTING THEIR TIME". AT ONE POINT MOYA ASKED AUDIENCE "WERE THESE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WHO YESTERDAY TRIED TO FRUSTRATE THE DIALOGUE OF PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA WITH OUR COMMUNITY?" CROWD RSPONDED WITH SHOUTS OF "NO* NO*".

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